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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**Applicant:** Philip Louis Taylor**Serial No.:** 09/232,110**Art Unit:** 1714**Filed:** January 15, 1999**Examiner:** T. Yoon**For:** *AQUEOUS COATING COMPOSITION GIVING COATINGS HAVING
AN IMPROVED EARLY HARDNESS AND TACK RESISTANCE*

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132**Sir:**

I, Philip Louis Taylor, hereby declare that:

1. I am the inventor of the above-identified patent application. I am currently a Paints Research Associate in Strategic Research Group within the European Decorative Paints Research and Development Department of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC ("ICI"). ICI is the assignee of rights in the present application.

2. I studied chemistry at the University of Cambridge which subsequently conferred on me the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy. I joined the above Research Department of ICI in October 1982 and I have been continuously involved in polymer research there ever since becoming very familiar with the physical and chemical properties of polymers in general. During the period 1993 to 1996, I conducted research in which I studied the controlled crystallisation of hydroxyalkanoate polyesters and in particular I

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

carried out research work in the field of water-based coating compositions containing polyhydroxyalkanoates. This led to my work on the making of the compositions described and claimed in the present application.

3. I have reviewed the Office Actions mailed on September 21, 2001, in the present application.

4. I attest that, based on my experience as a researcher in PHA polyesters, a non-crystalline or an amorphous PHA polyester alone will crystallize and/or fuse at ambient temperatures to form a PHA polyester film. The PHA film thus formed is water-resistant by the standard of the Water Spot test described at p. 11, line 36 to p. 12, line 5 of the present application.

5. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge and belief are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that the statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: December 19, 2002


Philip Louis Taylor

ATL1 #548042 v1